97-84112-3

U.S. Dept. of Labor

The crippled child

Washington, D.C.

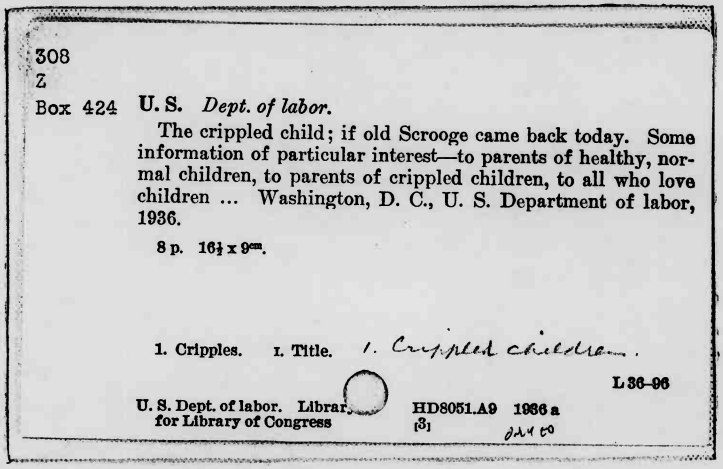
1936

97-84112-3
MASTER NEGATIVE #

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
PRESERVATION DIVISION

BIBLIOGRAPHIC MICROFORM TARGET

ORIGINAL MATERIAL AS FILMED - EXISTING BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD



308
Z
Box 424 U. S. *Dept. of labor.*

The crippled child; if old Scrooge came back today. Some information of particular interest—to parents of healthy, normal children, to parents of crippled children, to all who love children ... Washington, D. C., U. S. Department of labor, 1936.

8 p. 16½ x 9cm.

1. Cripples. I. Title. 1. Crippled children.

L 36-96

U. S. Dept. of labor. Library for Library of Congress HD8051.A9 1936 a [3] pam 60

RESTRICTIONS ON USE: *Reproductions may not be made without permission from Columbia University Libraries.*

TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

FILM SIZE: 35mm REDUCTION RATIO: 9:1 IMAGE PLACEMENT: IA (IIA) IB IIB

DATE FILMED: 6-6-97 INITIALS: AB

TRACKING # : 24931

FILMED BY PRESERVATION RESOURCES, BETHLEHEM, PA.

THE CRIPPLED CHILD

308
Box 424

If OLD SCROOGE *came back Today...*

Some information of particular interest—

To parents of healthy, normal children

To parents of crippled children

To all who love children . . .

And that takes in practically everyone

Issued by U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

1936

FOREWORD

This is a 1936 sequel to Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." You will remember that Tiny Tim was a frail little crippled chap. His father, Bob Cratchit, was employed by old Scrooge, a miser and a hard-hearted wretch. Bob did not earn enough to pay a great doctor to help Tiny Tim. But on Christmas Eve the spirits of The Past, The Present, and The Future showed Scrooge what a miserable fellow he had been. His heart was softened. After that he saw to it that Tiny Tim had proper care.

What Scrooge probably learned when he set out to help Tiny Tim (100 years ago).

There were no crippled children's hospitals.

There were few orthopedic surgeons (men who specialize in straightening bent and twisted bodies).

If a crippled child was too handicapped to walk to school, he received little or no education unless his parents were very wealthy and could employ a special tutor.

If the child's arms or legs were affected, there was very little hope that he could earn a living. Very often such children found the only career open to them that of begging for alms.

And, finally, little was known about how children became crippled. It never occurred to anyone, therefore, that perhaps Tiny Tim need not have been crippled in the first place.

What old Scrooge would find today.

✦

There are still crippled children, about six to every thousand persons under 21, but there is much more hope for them than there was for Tiny Tim.

✦

In these days, we think first about how to prevent children from being crippled, and much has been learned about that.

✦

If a child is crippled today, he has a fair chance of having the defect corrected. The things modern orthopedic surgeons can do seem like miracles.

✦

Today the opportunity to be helped is open to the rich and the poor alike. Wealth like Scrooge's is not needed, as it was for Tiny Tim. The State and Federal Governments have passed laws that provide aid for crippled children.

✦

Some children cannot be helped by the surgeon or the doctor. But today they can have an education and be trained for useful occupations that will make them self-supporting.

✦

How one hundred children became crippled.

No one knows exactly, but we can say that about—

24 were born that way.

11 had accidents.

10 did not have the right kind of food or enough sunlight when they were babies.

55 were crippled as a result of disease.

Preventing Rickets.—Sunlight and the proper diet are necessary for the formation of strong and sturdy bones. All parents with small babies should consult a physician about the child's diet. Except in rare instances, those who follow the doctor's advice need not fear that their children will be crippled by rickets.

Preventing Accidents.—Worry and fear are not the answers. Common sense is the best guide. Most accidents to children can be prevented by teaching the children simple principles and the exercise of reasonable caution.

Accidents in the Home.—More accidents happen to children in their own homes than anywhere else. A turned-up carpet (that the parents meant to fasten down); a loose board (that daddy meant to repair); a poorly lighted stairway or one too steep for safety, hastening little feet, and then shattered arms or legs. Scan your home for the small things that are dangerous.

Accidents on the Street.—Children can be taught the proper use of streets, just as they are taught to eat, to wash, and to sleep. Thousands of youngsters are in hospitals today because they thought that the streets could be used as playgrounds. Countless crippled children learned too late to respect traffic lights or to cross streets only at corners. Many a boy wears a brace today because he "hitched" a ride once too often.

Accidents on the Farm.—A farm is the safest place in the world, you say. Yes, if you are careful. Many children who have toyed with farm machinery or have taken foolish chances with animals have learned painful and costly lessons.

Preventing Crippling Diseases.—The best way to prevent diseases that leave twisted or wasted limbs is to keep away from them, as many of the illnesses that cripple children are contagious and occur in epidemics.

✦

Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) has caused the crippling of at least 3 out of every 10 crippled children.

✦

These are wise precautions: Children should be kept out of crowds whenever possible. Particular care should be taken when epidemics are known to be active. Children should never play with others who are known to be ill.

✦

Parents should be certain that food and drink served to their children are properly inspected Pasteurized milk is particularly important, as milk that is *not* pasteurized or boiled may carry the germs that cause serious diseases, including bone tuberculosis.

✦

If the child becomes ill, call a physician at once. If you do not know one, consult the nearest hospital. Prompt action may prevent permanent disability.

14—3358

FIVE STEPS IN THE CARE AND EDUCATION OF CRIPPLED CHILDREN

1. *Examination.*—Today any crippled child may have an examination by competent physicians. Parents whose means do not permit the services of a skilled physician have only to consult their local health or welfare officials to learn when and where the next nearby special clinic for crippled children will be held. At the clinic the child may be fitted with one of the modern corrective appliances, or arrangements may be made for hospital care or other treatment. The clinic is often the gateway from despair to hope.

✦

2. *Treatment.*—There are many ways now whereby the condition of crippled children can be improved. Surgery is only one of several types of treatment. The after-effects of infantile paralysis, for example, are often diminished by certain exercises. For other conditions the rays of the sun or of special lamps are effective.

✦

3. *Convalescent Care.*—Children who are convalescing and others who require treatment under certain conditions often are taken to convalescent homes where proper food, fresh air, sunlight, and special treatment are provided under trained supervision.

4. *Schools.*—In almost all big cities and in an increasing number of smaller communities there are special classes and schools for crippled children. Busses transport children who could not otherwise make the journey to and from their homes. In these schools and classes there is special equipment to help children surmount their handicaps.

✦

5. *Vocational Training.*—In hospitals, in convalescent homes, and in special schools the children are taught useful crafts as quickly as their condition permits. Because there is great variation in their handicaps, the instruction of each child is treated as a separate problem.

✦

What the Federal Government and the States do to help crippled children.

The Social Security Act, which was passed by Congress in 1935, provides for grants to the States to help them extend and improve their services to crippled children. The provisions of the act are explained in another leaflet in this series, called "Security for Children."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

No matter in which State you live, and whether or not you are a parent, there are certain things that you can do to open wider the gate of opportunity to crippled children. These are: (1) Report to your State administrative agency (health, welfare, education, or vocational rehabilitation bureau) the names of any crippled children who have not had medical attention; (2) if you have an automobile, volunteer to transport children to clinics; (3) contribute as freely as you can to private organizations that serve crippled children; and (4) cooperate in the Nation-wide effort to reduce the number of accidents.

For further information write to

CHILDREN'S BUREAU
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Washington, D. C.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 14—3358

NSA #24931

END OF
TITLE